

Serial No. 10/829,208
Amdt. Dated: September 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 28, 2005

Docket No. IK-0088

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the Abstract, specification, and claims 1-8 are amended, claims 9-24 are added and claims 5 and 7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The abstract and specification are amended for clarification purposes only. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Informalities

The Office Action objects to the Abstract and claim 4 due to informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the Substitute Abstract and the amendments to claim 4 filed herewith are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and thus the objections should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 6 are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and that claim 6 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 308,156 to Hamilton (hereinafter "Hamilton"), rejects claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 1,558,506 to Riek (hereinafter "Riek"), rejects claims 1-2, 5, and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 1,509,853 to Vance (hereinafter "Vance"), and rejects claims 1-2, 5, and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,421,089 to Smith (hereinafter "Smith"). Claims 5 and 7 are canceled. These rejections, in so far as they apply to the remaining claims, are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of guide rails provided on the receiving chamber cover corresponding to inner sides of both sidewalls of the receiving box and extending along the receiving chamber cover in a direction in which the receiving box is pushed into and pulled out of the partitioned space, wherein each of the plurality of guide rails comprises a guide channel which faces outward with respect to the receiving space. Claim 1 further recites a plurality of guide flanges provided at upper ends of both sidewalls of the receiving box and extending in an inward direction with respect to the receiving space, wherein the plurality of guide flanges are positioned so as to correspond to the plurality of guide rails, wherein each guide flange of the plurality of guide flanges is configured to be supported and guided by a respective guide rail of the plurality of guide rails. Neither Hamilton, nor Riek, nor Vance, nor Smith discloses or suggests such features.

A. Hamilton

Hamilton discloses dust covers a, b and c which close off a top of a drawer h' to inhibit the entry of dust into the drawer h'. The covers a, b, and c are attached to the drawer h' so that they remain stationary when the drawer h' is pushed in or pulled out (see column 1, lines 28-36 of Hamilton). The covers a and b shown in Figures 1-2 of Hamilton cover the entire drawer h', and are held fixed atop the drawer h' by a pair of tongues d inserted into a pair of inward facing grooves g formed in the drawer h'. The cover c shown in Figure 3 of Hamilton covers only a gap formed in the front end of the drawer h', and is held in place in a like manner, in which a tongue e is inserted into an inward facing groove g. Hamilton neither discloses nor suggests any type of inward facing guide flanges, nor any type guide rails, let alone guide rails which include outward facing guide channels, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Hamilton, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Hamilton should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 2-4 and 8, as well as newly added claim 9, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above, with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

B. Riek

Riek discloses a drawer for a kitchen table defined by a front apron 1 and a back apron 2,

with strips 3 on which the table top 4 is mounted. Support strips 14 extend down along the side of the strips 3, and end in V shaped flanges 15 which form a hook onto which double thickness flanges 9 formed at an upper end of the side plates 8 of the drawer are engaged, allowing the flanges 9 to slide along the flanges 15 to open and close the drawer. Riek neither discloses nor suggests that the flanges 15 at the end of the support strips 14 form an outward facing guide channel, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Riek, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Riek should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 2-4 and 8, as well as newly added claim 9, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above, with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

C. Vance

Vance discloses a sheet metal table top 11 and a rail 19 which accommodates a set of angle irons 28 used as legs fitted beneath the table top 11. A plate 51 is bolted to the rail 19 which has a U flange 54 extending down from the plate 51 at each end to form an upwardly oriented hook, or guideway 55. Sides 62 of a drawer 58 are bent at their upper ends, first inward 63, and then into an inverted hook, or corresponding U member 56 which fits into the guideway 55 formed in by the plate 51. The U-member 56, is clearly oriented in a downward and outward

direction with respect to the drawer 58 and table. Vance neither discloses nor suggests a plurality of inward facing guide flanges, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, the guideway 55 is clearly oriented in an upward and inward direction with respect to the drawer 58 and table, and Vance neither discloses nor suggests outward facing guide channels as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Vance, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Vance should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 2 and 8, as well as newly added claim 9, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above, with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

D. Smith

Smith discloses a refrigerator, including crispers 36 suspended beneath a shelf 37 by double channel sections 38 and 39. The channels 38 and 39 are separated into an upper channel 40 which faces inward to receive and secure the shelf 37, and a lower channel 41 which faces inward to receive an outward facing flange 44 of the crisper 36. The flange 44 of the crisper clearly faces outward, and Smith neither discloses nor suggests a plurality of inward facing guide flanges, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, both the upper and lower channels 40 and 41

clearly face inward, and thus Smith neither discloses nor suggests outward facing guide channels as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Smith, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Smith should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 2 and 8, as well as newly added claim 9, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above, with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Smith in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,044,704 to Bussan (hereinafter "Bussan"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 6 is allowable over Smith at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Bussan is merely cited to teach a common rail, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Smith. Further, Bussan suffers deficiencies similar to those set forth above with respect to Hamilton, Riek, Vance, and Smith, in that the drawer support frame 30 disclosed by Bussan has inward facing tracks 42 formed in its side members 36 and 38 to receive outward facing flanges 50 of the drawers 20 and 22. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is allowable over the

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applied combination, and thus the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bussan should be withdrawn.

V. New Claims 10-24

New claims 10-24 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 10-24 also define over the applied prior art references and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, JOANNA K. MASON, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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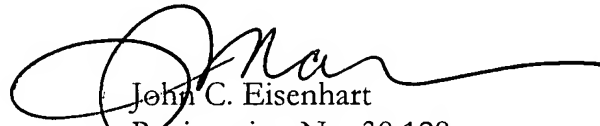
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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



John C. Eisenhart
Registration No. 38,128

Joanna K. Mason
Registration No. 56,408

P.O. Box 221200

Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200

(703) 766-3701 DYK;JCE;JKM/ah:tlg

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